

Satan Thinks He Has Taken My Son

Dear xxxxx,

I want to encourage you this Christmas season even if you have suffered a loss recently. Yes, loss is real, suffering is real, but we can learn from persecuted Christians that joy in the midst of suffering is real as well. Christ has come! He has come to give us a hope and a future (Jer. 29:11). Here is a story that may bring tears to your eyes, but will also encourage your heart:

"One morning a lady named Akram called Iran Alive. "I have only one son," she said. "Mahdi is six years old and has blood cancer. I am a Kurd, but I've come to Tehran to get medical help for him. I'm a Muslim, but I want you to pray for me."



We asked one of our leaders in Tehran to go the hospital to visit and pray for her son. For the next six months, Akram called us once per week to update us on her son. Her every call was filled with pain, tears, and hopelessness. We kept praying for Akram and Mahdi.

One day she called and said, "My son had a dream about Jesus Christ. Jesus came to him and said, 'Don't worry, you are safe with me, and you will be with me soon.' Mahdi told me, 'So don't worry, Mom. If I die, I will be with Jesus.'"

We shared the Gospel with her then, and she came to Christ shortly afterward.

Not long after that, Akram called us again. With much peace and joy in her voice, she said, "I have called to give you good news about my son, Mahdi."

"Has the boy been healed?" our counselor asked with excitement.

"Yes, he was healed," Akram answered.

The counselor was overjoyed. "Please tell us more about this miracle," she said.

*Akram said, "Okay, I will tell you. Two hours ago, at 6:30 a.m., Mahdi went to be with the Lord." Our counselor was troubled and began crying, but Akram comforted her. "Jesus is the healer," she said. "He did what He said He would do. Mahdi is with Jesus now. And I will not let Satan attack and trouble my soul. **Satan thinks he has taken my only son from me, but I will raise up even more sons. I will adopt two sons and raise them up to be Christians and serve the Lord. I am not educated well, but I will raise these two sons to know the Bible well. I will teach them.**"*

(over, please)

This dear lady, a new believer, understood that she could have joy for her future with Jesus, and that all His promises are true. We connected Akram to our underground church network, where she continued to grow in her faith. She followed through on her promise and adopted two sons whom she is bringing up in the Lord. Now she even has a house church in her home.

Just like Akram, you can be joyful in this Christmas season no matter what your circumstances are. Knowing Jesus is enough to celebrate His coming with a heart full of thanksgiving and joy—yes even in the midst of suffering.

New Satellite Contract

As we come again to the end of the year and the time to renew our satellite contract, I must first thank all of you who helped last Christmas so we could have a year of productive ministry in 2016. We always want to be good stewards of God's money, and we are excited to tell you that we have found a new satellite that is cheaper and yet has a more powerful signal. We will be switching in January, **so this year, we will need only \$250,000 by the end of December to sign the satellite contract for 2017 and continue another year of impactful ministry.**

At the same time, we believe that we need to update our media strategy. The world is gradually moving away from satellite TV and towards mobile media. **We need an additional \$100,000 to launch our mobile technology ministry in 2017** so we can effectively reach every Farsi speaker in this more personal way.

These two amounts put together are what our satellite contract alone cost us last year, so we are grateful to the Lord for providing us the means to move forward into new technology without increasing our overall expense. Won't you please ask the Lord how He wants you to partner with us this year to fund sending His message into the homes and hands of Farsi-speakers so they may know His joy as Akram and Mahdi do?

Perhaps you have had a setback or a loss this year. Would you decide, as Akram did, to give and bless others even out of your loss? To honor the Lord's care for Mahdi, Akram decided to raise up two sons to serve Him. In this Christmas season, please help us raise up sons and daughters for Christ in Iran, who will be trained to serve the One who has come and who will come again.



In praise of the One who will reign over Elam (Iran),

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hormoz Shariat". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Hormoz Shariat, Ph.D.
President & Founder, Iran Alive

A rectangular button with rounded corners, colored in a gradient of orange and red. On the left side, there is a yellow arrow icon pointing to the right. To the right of the arrow, the text "Donate NOW!" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font.

P.S. Did you know you can set up automatic monthly giving at
www.IranAliveMinistries.org?

Please help us reach millions of Persians daily in 2017.